

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS HURRICANE RECOVERY AND LEVEE ISSUES January 18, 2006

How many miles of levees will the Corps inspect and potentially rebuild?

- If you include every last mile of levee that's associated with the New Orleans' metro levee protection system it's about 350 miles. A large percentage of these will be worked on.

Will this additional work bring the system to Category 3 or 4?

- No, it will not. -- the design storm parameters included winds of between 90 and 115 mph and a barometric pressure of 27.6 inches. If you're familiar at all with the Saffir-Simpson scale, an upper end Category 3 is 130 plus mph winds so there's a pretty significant difference.
- The storm surge varies based on the location and exposure to the gulf or to the lake. So the storm surge, for example, for St. Bernard's Parish was around 17 feet, and if you look at the lakefront or in Orleans Parish, it was closer to 15 feet.

So the new plans aren't going to protect us at a higher level than the old plan did?

- Any protected area, whether it's a hurricane protection or river/lake flood area, is a risk.
- History has proven time and again that Mother Nature will throw something bigger at these protection systems than what was built so people should recognize that that threat always exists.

How are residents here supposed to feel safe?

- The protection level in this area will be up to the level that it was prior to Katrina, and it will certainly be safe with the level of rebuilding we are doing.
- By September, 2007, southeast Louisiana will have a hurricane protection system completely finished to its authorized level which is robust enough to counter the results of winds between 90 and 115 MPH and a barometric pressure of about 27.4 inches -- that's on the lower end of the Category 3 storm.

Can you guarantee the levees won't fail again?

- We can guarantee you that we'll do everything possible using modern engineering and science to make the system as safe as possible.
- Most of the 140 people on our team live in New Orleans, and many of them are also victims of Katrina.

Some people have said the Corps no longer has the expertise to build levees and that your repairs are unstable.

- The Corps has some of the most well-respected engineers in the country. They are experts in building levees.

Should people build behind levees?

- Local communities make those decisions -- it's our job to provide engineering expertise and construct projects that are authorized by law.
- The mid-term and long-term analysis we're doing will give the city's leaders and residents the information they need to decide if they want to re-build.

So what is your personal opinion about living behind levees?

- It's our job to provide engineering expertise and design and build the best and safest levees we can under the direction we're given by Congress.
- There is always going to be some risk associated with living behind a levee.
- It's a risk each individual must decide whether or not to live with.

What is the Corps doing about returning to work in the 9th Ward?

- The City of New Orleans has requested the Corp not perform any work in the lower 9th ward until further notice. We support that request.
- We will resume debris operations in the 9th ward when the safety of the public, our contractors and Corps employees can be ensured to the greatest possible extent.
- Our future plan of action for demolition in the 9th ward will be based on the direction of FEMA and the city of New Orleans.

Why is the debris mission taking so long?

- This is the largest debris mission in the history of the U.S., with three times more debris than the previous largest Hurricane Andrew.
- We've already moved more debris than we did for hurricane Andrew (16 million cubic yards in 4 months for Katrina and Rita, as opposed to 15 million cubic yards removed for Andrew over 6 months).
- Also impacting is the need properly dispose of the materials according to EPA and State regulations
- We estimate we will complete all debris missions, including demolition, by the end of September 2006.

Why is it taking so long for the demolition mission to begin in Orleans?

- There are some legal challenges to the City from activists who are concerned about the rights of private property owners, and once the legal issues are settled, we will begin work at the direction of FEMA.

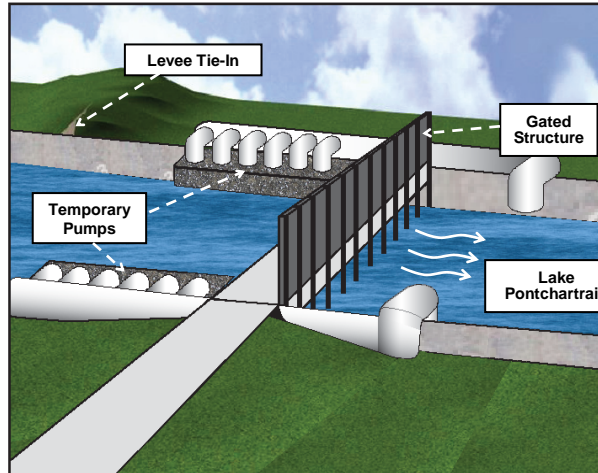
Why is the Corps so expensive compared to private contractors?

- The Corps always seeks the best value for the government, and the American taxpayer, based on the ability to get the job done on time and on budget. The Army Corps is the only Federal agency capable of responding to this incredible challenge. A private contractor, working in a limited geographic area, may not face the costs incurred when you are responding to an area that is 87,000 square miles.
- The Corps selects contractors on a competitive basis, and we award contracts to companies that offer the best value to the government based on all of the disaster response evaluation factors – including the ability of the contractor to perform such a massive undertaking.



US Army Corps
of Engineers

New Orleans Outfall Canal Interim Closure Plan



- ✓ Three sites
- ✓ Provides Protection
- ✓ Prevents Storm Surge
- ✓ Permits Drainage
- ✓ Technically Feasible
- ✓ Interim Solution

One Team: Relevant, Ready, Responsive, Reliable

As of 10-Jan-06